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ABSTRACT

This illustrated unit of study can be incorporated into regular social studies courses in elementary classrooms. The unit focuses on life in the 13 original colonies from the settlement period to the Revolutionary War. Activities are provided to help students learn the names and locations of the colonies. A highlight of the unit is a study of the French-Indian War. The Boston Massacre, the passage of the Townshend Acts, and other events leading to the Revolutionary War are explained. The meeting of the Continental Congress and the signing of the Declaration of Independence are discussed. Activities designed to engage students in the learning process include research and learning to make journal entries. The culminating activity includes formulating plans for a new nation. The unit concludes with enrichment activities, word puzzles, and discussion questions. (SM)

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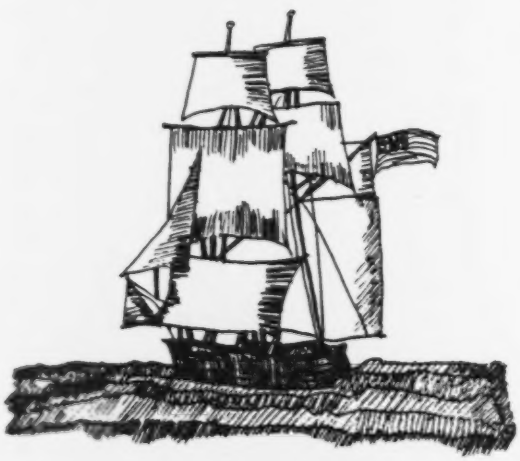
Colonial America

A COURSE OF STUDY

by Sondra Bennett
and Mark Stephens

Illustrated by Joan Harrington

Germantown Academy 1987



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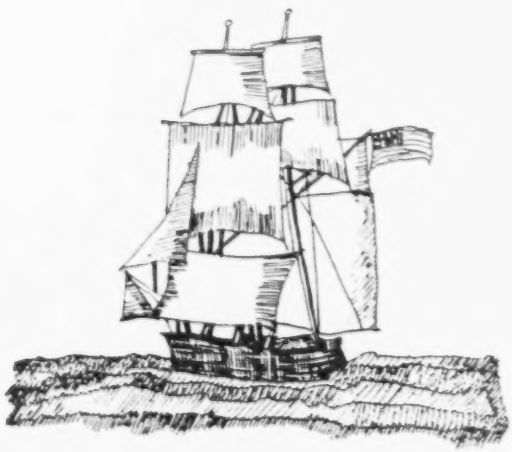

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This book is dedicated to Jan and Siere for their continual support, encouragement and love.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We are grateful to Germantown Academy, for its support and encouragement of our project, and to the Edward R. Kast Fund for the grants which allowed us to pursue this work.

We would also like to thank the following people:

Paul Keiner, David Mallery, and Sheldon Russell, for showing me that it was possible;
Sandy Bennett and Peggylee Stephens for encouraging me to "GET ON WITH IT!"

-Mark

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Mark Stephens, Nancy Hite, Marge Levi, Phyllis Buck and Rose Hofer for their friendship and confidence in me.

-Sandy

COLONIAL AMERICA

Question: **Do you know when your birthday is?**

A silly question, you say?

If you know your birthday, write it here:

My birthday is: _____

Our country, yes, the great U.S.A., America, the United States of America, has a birthday, too. Do you know the date of the birthday of our country?

America's birthday is: _____.

To find out about the birthday of our country, we must go back to an age called, "*Colonial Times.*" Colonial times were a long time ago. They began about seventy years after Columbus "discovered" America. They began when some settlers came from Spain to live in America in the year 1565. Colonial times ended when the thirteen English colonies became the United States of America.

Can you figure out how many years ago 1776 was? If you can, write your answer here:

What led up to the birthday of the United States of America? How did the thirteen English colonies become a country? What is a colony? What was it like to live in Colonial America? In Colonial Philadelphia?

This is how it happened. It is a **long story**, so you will have to read very carefully. Put your thinking cap on, and...

... **let's go!**

The countries that claimed large parts of America were located on the continent of Europe. Explorers from these countries sailed across the ocean and claimed land for their Kings and Queens. People from England settled along the Eastern coast of America and formed colonies. These colonies.....Whoa! Wait A Minute!

Colonies? Oceans? First of all, what ocean are we talking about? If you know the name of the ocean the colonists from Europe had to cross, write it here. (If you don't know, look on a map and check it out.)

_____

Trace the route from London, England to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on the world map above.

The 13 colonies. Hmmm...Do you know what a colony is? Look up the word in the dictionary, and write the definition (meaning) here:

colony: _____

_____

_____

_____

On the Eastern coast of America were thirteen colonies that belonged to Great Britain. (Great Britain is another name for _____.) Each colony had its own name.

The first colony settled by the British was the colony of Virginia, in the year _____.

Do you remember the Pilgrims? We learn about the Pilgrims on Thanksgiving. Well, they settled in the colony of Massachusetts in the year _____.

THINK ENGLISH:

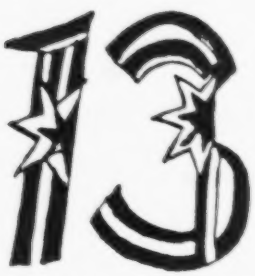
The English explorer John Cabot discovered the lands which became the thirteen colonies. Cabot had been sposored by the King of England, with the understanding that all lands he discovered would belong to England.

The English King allowed settlers to move into his colonies in the "New World," and to build their lives on his lands.

England (and all other powerful countries) establish colonies so that these colonies will help their "Mother Country" by shipping any valuable goods found there (or made there) back to the Mother Country.

That is the purpose of a colony!

Do you remember the name William Penn? Well, William Penn and the Quakers settled in the colony of Pennsylvania in the year 1682.



Now, to continue the story. Did anyone ever tell you anything about the number thirteen? Some people think it is an unlucky number. Do you agree?

Anyway, there were thirteen original colonies. That means that there were thirteen colonies that were started first. Do you think you think that you can write the names of all thirteen?

Research Time: Use materials in the classroom or the library, to find the names of the thirteen original colonies. Write the names of the colonies in the blanks below:

_____ _____

_____ _____

_____ _____

_____ _____

_____ _____

_____ _____

*Remember to use capital letters where needed!

_____

Do you know which colony was settled first? Second? Third? See if you can find out, then write "1, 2, and 3" next to the correct colonies above.

Now that you have the names of the thirteen colonies above, put them in the correct locations on the map below.

So now, we have these thirteen English colonies on the East coast of the New World. But what about the people in these colonies? How did they live? What were their lives like?

Well, what your life was like depended on *where you lived*...

THE NORTHERN COLONIES ("NEW ENGLAND")

Up here, the winters were very cold, and the summers were not very long.

There were a few cities, like Boston, Massachusetts.

People living in towns did a lot of trading with other countries, so many worked at jobs having to do with shipping.

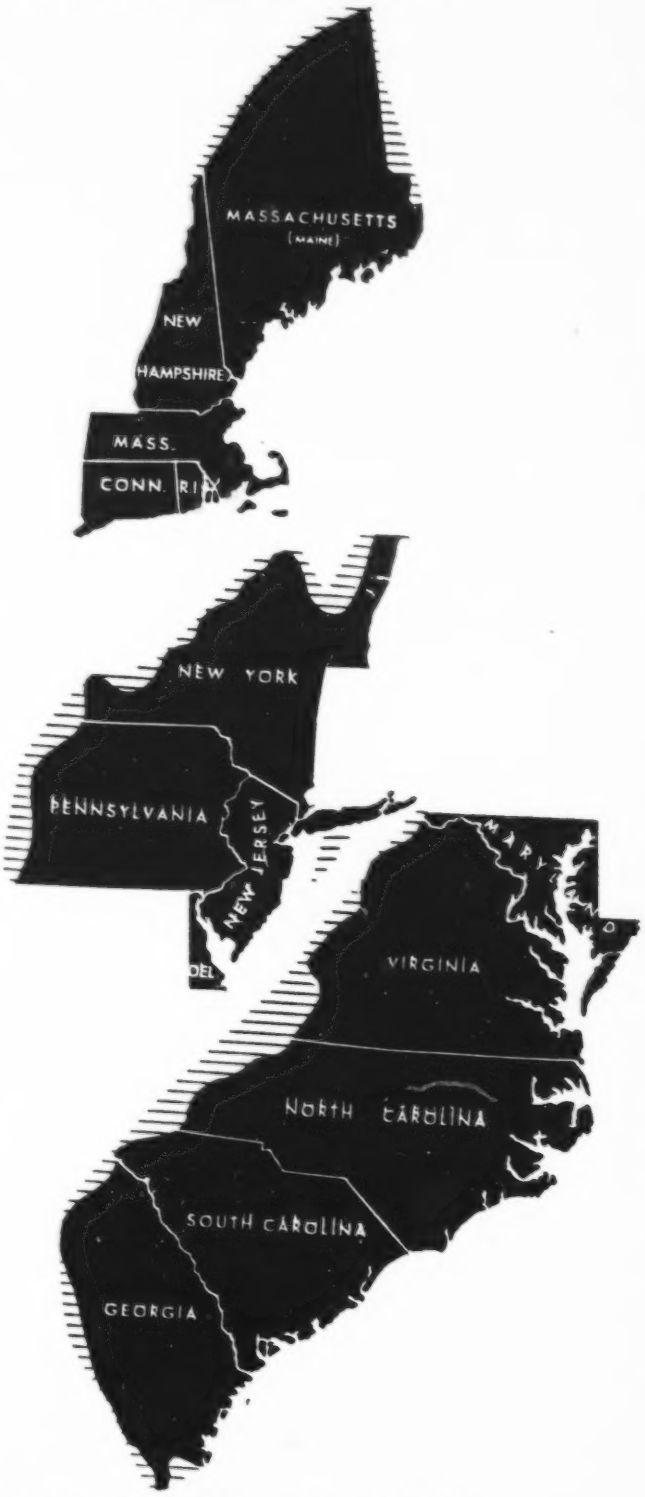
THE MIDDLE COLONIES

The weather was a bit warmer down here. The growing season was longer, and farming more important, than in New England.

The Middle Colonies also boasted some of the most important cities of the time. New York and Philadelphia both grew up as trading centers,

THE SOUTHERN COLONIES

The summer was long and hot, and the good soil made crops like tobacco, rice, indigo, and cotton grow well. Most of Southern life revolved around farming. (Very big farms were called "plantations.")



So life depended on many factors. Location and climate helped determine how you earned your living.

Now that you've learned something about the colonies, pick one of the areas in which you might have wanted to live.

Complete one of the **journal entries** below about the date April 21, 1756. Read each carefully, and write your entry on the next page.

Journal Number 1: In six weeks, my indenture will finally be finished and I will be free to open my own sailmaking shop. Master Adams has taught me well,
and I will be using the skills I've learned to make a living.

At long last, I can marry Becky. This morning, we worked hard to fill an order from Captain Logan who resides in Boston. My time for lunch is almost over, and this afternoon I hope to.....

Journal Number 2: I just returned from Sunday Meeting, and I am so excited about the barn raising that will be held tomorrow.

The Cavendish family are good friends of ours, although Jenny and I differ greatly about our daughters. Priscilla Cavendish insists upon singing, and even dancing sometimes! She is entirely too showy. She forgets our Quaker beliefs. Life should be kept pure and simple. I hope that tomorrow.....

Journal Number 3: I, Katy Wilkes, do not know why my husband continues to mistreat poor Sam. I know that slaves must learn to work hard, and that we must have their work if we are to get our crops in on time. I would not want our plantation to fail, certainly, but--

Just because Sam dropped the pail of milk again is no reason to have him beaten. My husband says that Sam does not try; that Sam even talked of running away! When my husband started talking of selling Sam's wife and child at lunch today, I had to leave the room. This evening at dinner, I must.....

Journal Entry

(Journal Number ___)

The End.

We're now up to the point in time when the English colonies and their French neighbors to the north had some trouble with each other. There are many ways to settle arguments, but this argument grew into a war!

This war was called "The French and Indian War," but it ***was not*** a war between the French and Indians.

Actually this war began when French fur trappers started moving into lands that the English considered theirs. On one side of this dispute were the French, and the Indian tribes with whom they traded. On the other side were the English and their colonies. The English (and the colonists) were fighting against the French and the Indians--so the English called it the "French and Indian War."

The English colonists lived mainly in settlements (towns, farms, etc.) along the eastern part of the colonies. Many French to the North, however, made their living by trapping animals and selling their furs. The larger area they had, the more fur trapping the French could do.

The French saw much good land lying unused in Western Pennsylvania and New York. They wanted to do some fur trapping here. This land had been claimed by England, though.

Well, the French fur trappers moved into this empty land. They made much money from fur trapping in this area, but they knew that the English would probably try to force them to leave it, so the French built forts to protect the lands into which they had moved (Western Pennsylvania and New York).

The English brought part of its army to America to fight against the French. The French had part of its army in America as well, and in 1754, the two armies started fighting over the American colonies. It was an important War, this "French and Indian" War, because whichever side won would probably force the other side to give it ALL ITS LAND in America!

England and France were old enemies. They had fought against each other in countless wars in Europe for many hundreds of years. Their armies were well-trained, and their leaders were excellent. When the colonists fought with the English now, a few good colonists led units of colonial soldiers (called "militia"). One such leader was a colonel in the militia named George Washington.

Now for a "human interest" story:

The style of fighting used by the English and French in Europe had been to stand in neat rows and fire muskets at each other on command. While this worked great on the open battlefields of Europe, do you think this was the best battle strategy to use in the forests of Pennsylvania and New York?

The French quickly learned from their Indian allies to hide behind trees and rocks when fighting. The English, however, stood neatly in their rows. The English Redcoats made easy targets.

A young colonial officer named George Washington tried to tell his superiors about this new method of battle. The English officers would not listen. After all, their method of fighting had worked very well in Europe for hundreds of years, hadn't it? They were not going to change, just because of one simple colonist!

So, Washington and his men hid behind rocks and trees when they fought. They met with much more success than larger English units, because Washington and his men used the Indian style of fighting that worked better in the forests of America.

Washington became very popular with the colonial soldiers. They respected him for his good ideas.

He could not tell the English how to fight, though, because the colonies were English, so the colonists fought under the English army. English officers felt that they knew far more than the "untrained, unskilled, and ill-mannered colonists."

After nine years of fighting, the English (helped by the colonists) defeated the French (and their Indian allies). As a result of the French and Indian War, the English forced the French to give up most of the land they held in America. It had been an important victory!

There came a time when some in the thirteen colonies did not want to belong to England anymore. They did not think that the English King or that men across the sea should make any laws or rules for them. They wanted to make their own laws, to be free and independent. They began to feel more like one country instead of thirteen colonies. It would still be a long time before the thirteen colonies became "The United States of America."

By the way, do you really know what the word "*Independence*" means? Please look up the word in the dictionary and write the definition here.

Independence: _____

_____

_____

_____

Everyone in the colonies did not agree. Some wanted independence from England and were called Patriots (Radicals); some remained loyal to England and were called Loyalists (Tories). Most of the colonists (Moderates) did not care that strongly one way or the other.

Many things happened to anger the colonists. Many were angry for a long time. John Adams of Massachusetts, a leader of the Revolution, and the second President of the United States, wrote:

> "The Revolution was in the minds and hearts of the people, and this was effected from 1760 to 1775, in the course of fifteen years, before a drop of blood was shed..."

We will learn what happened in those fifteen years as the story continues.

Remember when we were talking about the French and Indian War? Well, England, helped by her colonists, did win the war. But fighting a war costs money, and *the bills had to be paid.*

The <u>good news</u> about England winning the war was that the French had to leave most of North America. That meant that England now controlled much more land than before. The <u>bad news</u> was that fighting the war cost a great deal of money.

Who was going to pay the bills?

An Englishman: We fought the French And Indian War to protect the colonists. They should help us by paying some of the costs. After all, now that the French are gone and the Indians are beaten, their lives will be safer... and it is because of <u>our army</u>!

A Radical Colonist: Why should we pay anything? The English were just over here to protect their empire. They're three thousand miles away, and we will not pay their bills. After all, over twenty thousand of us fought with the British army. We didn't get paid! Why should we pay them now?

The story continues with some colonists not wanting to pay for the French And Indian War. People in the English government, along with their King (George III), began to pass a series of laws designed to force the colonists to help pay "their share" of the English debt. ***(After each explanation, pretend that you are either a Radical living in the colonies, or an Englishman. Tell how you feel about the act or the event explained.)***

The first such measure was passed right after the War ended in 1763. The "Proclamation of 1763" told the colonists that they would have to help pay the debt by paying new taxes. It also said that any colonists who had built their homes west of the Appalachian Mountains would have to leave their homes and move back to the East "for their own protection."

(Your
Response)_____

_____

_____

Next, in 1765 the English Parliament listed the specific taxes that the colonists would have to pay, in what was called The Stamp Act. One of the most important parts of The Stamp Act ordered the colonists to be sure that all papers of any kind (newspapers, books etc.) did bear the royal stamp. Many colonists objected to this. Some radicals, working as mobs, even went so far as to tar and feather the King's tax collectors. The English soldiers tried to arrest these radicals who were breaking the law.

(Your
Response)_____

_____

_____

Later that same year (1765), Parliament and the King passed the **"Quartering Act."** Because of all the English soldiers in the colonies, there were not enough barracks for them to live in. The colonists were ordered to let the soldiers live in their homes whenever they were asked to do so. This got many colonists very angry. Some felt the soldiers were being put there to spy on colonists who might be troublemakers. The King told the colonists that they would be paid rent by the soldiers.

(Your response)_____

_____

_____

By 1767, the Prime Minister of England, Charles Townshend, felt that the colonists were not paying enough taxes. He passed the **"Townshend Acts,"** which put a tax on many more things (lead, glass, paper, tea, etc.). Again, many colonists were very angry. They complained that they could not say anything about the laws as they were being made up in Parliament. If they could have a few colonists in Parliament, it would be fairer, they said. The English felt that Parliament could manage its own colonies very well. The English governors would tell them what needed to be done.

(Your response)_____

_____

_____

Well, the colonists were getting so upset about the ***Townshend Acts,*** that by 1769, King George decided to fire Charles Townshend, and to repeal (stop, cancel) <u>all</u> taxes that the colonists were paying. Well, not quite all...You see, a favorite company of the King's, the **East India Tea Company,** needed the colonists to buy its tea in order to stay in business. So King George repealed all taxes EXCEPT for a small tax on any tea that WAS NOT BOUGHT FROM the **East India Tea Company.** The colonists now paid hardly any taxes at all.

(Your response)_____

_____

_____

Some colonists were happier, now that they paid so little tax. Other colonists were still very angry about the tea tax. They felt it was unfair of the King to use the colonists to help one company make money.

The year was 1770.
The city was Boston.

It was a cold and snowy winter night. A lone British sentry was on guard duty outside the Boston Common (a large, open area where the people of Boston gathered). Several colonial boys, out for some fun, began to taunt the sentry by throwing snow balls and calling him names. The sentry, tired from his long watch, angrily chased the boys away. Words were exchanged.

A little later that evening, fathers joined their sons. Rocks were hurled at the sentry. The crowd grew, and the sentry was unable to settle the crowd.

As some men in the crowd began to advance on the lone sentry with sticks and rocks, his superior officer and five soldiers came out to help him. The angry crowd still would not settle down. One thing led to another and a shot rang out in the night! (We do not know who fired this fateful shot.) The English guns responded to this sound. When the smoke cleared, five colonists lay dead in the street. The next morning, the Boston papers were full of stories about the "Boston Massacre," when British soldiers murdered five innocent colonists in the streets of Boston.

(Your response)_____

_____

_____

By the year 1772, relations between the colonists and the English were worsening. Groups of radical colonists were looking for any occasion to turn a disagreement into a fight. **Could it be that these colonists really wanted war?**

An occasion presented itself in the form of a British ship, **The Gaspee,** that ran aground on a sand bar off the coast of Rhode Island. This ship was a very fast revenue cutter (a ship that the British used to chase and catch colonial smugglers).

When chasing one smuggling ship close to the shore of Rhode Island, The Gaspee had run up on a sandbar, and could not move. As the English ship sat helpless, a group of radicals from Rhode Island rowed out to the ship, and set it on fire. The Gaspee was completely destroyed, burned to its water line. The radical colonists celebrated this "victory over an English ship." The English were more determined than ever to crush the rebellion.

(Your response)_____

_____

_____

The next year, 1773, Boston was a hotbed of unrest. A writer compared the city of Boston to a boiling pot, about to blow its top. Colonists in Boston, still angry about the tax on tea, were listening more and more to radical leaders like Sam Adams when he urged them to take action against the British.

We go now to the Boston Harbor, where ships arrive with supplies for the city. One such ship belonged to the British East India Company. It was loaded with tea which King George was insisting the Colonists buy (even though cheaper tea could be bought from other countries.) As the ship sat peacefully in its berth, a group of radicals, calling themselves "The Sons of Liberty," and dressed as Indians, boarded the vessel. They broke into the cargo hold, seized the chests of tea, ripped them open, and tossed 18,000 pounds of British tea into the Boston Harbor.

(Your response)_____

_____

_____

SIX WEEKS
FOR THE NEWS
TO REACH THE KING!

SIX MORE WEEKS
FOR HIS ANGRY RESPONSE
TO SPEED BACK ACROSS THE OCEAN!

***THE PORT OF BOSTON WAS TO BE CLOSED!**

***NO GROUPS OF COLONISTS WERE ALLOWED TO MEET IN PUBLIC!**

***THE CITIZENS OF BOSTON COULD NOT MAKE ANY MORE OF THEIR OWN LAWS!**

All of these measures were to be in effect until the citizens of Boston paid for the tea that was dumped into the harbor. The colonists called these measures THE INTOLERABLE ACTS. ("Intolerable" means something one cannot live with.)

(Your response)_____

_____

_____

The story continues with all of the colonies working together to help and support the city of Boston. Goods and supplies flowed into the city from as far away as Georgia. This was done in defiance of British law.

The word **Independence** was heard more and more thhroughout the land. The more the Biritish tried to crush this spirit of Independence, the more strongly the colonists resisted.

In 1774, representatives of the colonies met in Philadelphia to discuss the situation. This **First Continental Congress** was attended by representatives of twelve of the colonies, showing that the colonies still had a way to go in their efforts to work together as one group.

By 1775, the British considered the colonies to be in a state of rebellion against their Mother Country. In April, the British soldiers in Massachusetts heard that the colonists were gathering rifles and other weapons and storing them in the town of Concord, some eighteen miles from Boston. British Soldiers wanted to capture these weapons.

On the night of April 18, 1775, a company of British soldiers (Redcoats) marched out of Boston knowing that they would have to march through the town of Lexington. Four patriots set out from Boston that night to warn the colonists that "The British are coming!" One of there riders was Paul Revere. Can you find the name of one other?

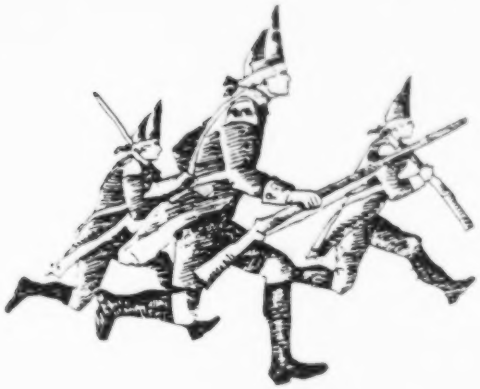
If you can, write it here: _____

As the British soldiers reached Lexington, they found a group of about seventy colonial **Minutemen** waiting for them on the village green. Knowing that his Minutemen were hopelessly outnumbered by the more than 600 British troops, Captain Parker was determined not to give up.

"... If they want to have a war, let it begin here," he said.

The answer yelled at the Minutemen by the British commander was,

"Lay down your arms, you rebels!"



Shots were fired, but the colonists were no match for the trained British soldiers. When the dust cleared, seven colonists lay dead; ten more were wounded. The British marched on to Concord where they spent the day searching for the store of weapons, which they never found.

Historically, the first shot fired at Lexington has been called **"The shot heard around the world."** "...Heard around the world?" Is that possible? If so, how? If not, why the strange name?

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

_____

_____

_____

SETTING: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
May, 1775
State House

Finally, all thirteen colonies sent representatives to a meeting, which turned out to be an historic one. Fifty-five white men gathered to debate the issue of **INDEPENDENCE** for their thirteen colonies. The questions faced by the men of this **SECOND CONTINENTAL CONGRESS** were new, never having been debated in this way before.

Because these men were English citizens, they were, in fact, committing the crime of treason...which was punishable by death. Some of these men felt very strongly that the problems with England could be worked out; others felt, just as strongly, that ***WAR*** was the only solution.

The debate raged on. Delegates came and went. The Second Continental Congress was deciding an issue which would change the lives of everyone living in the colonies.

Finally, in early 1776, Thomas Jefferson, a young man from Virginia, was selected to put down in words the feelings and intentions of the Congress.

"When in the course of human events," his document began. It went on to list the reasons why these thirteen colonies, speaking through such famous men as John Adams, John Hancock, and Benjamin Franklin, felt it <u>absolutley necessary</u> to separate from England. All present at that historic meeting knew that the signing of the Declaration of Independence would mean that there was no turning back.

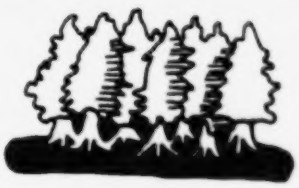
After months of debate, the roll call of the colonies was taken on July 4, 1776. John Hancock's bold signature at the bottom of the document announced to the world that this assembly had come to a **unanimous** decision that

"...these thirteen colonies are,
and of right ought to be,
a free and independent nation."

So the thirteen colonies declared to the world that they were now the "United States of America." But it was not quite that easy. There was still a war to fight, a war that almost no one thought the Americans would win. Remember, England was the most powerful country in the world in 1776.

After seven years of hard fighting, though, the Americans did win the Revolutionary War. Many people died in this War. Many British soldiers died far from their homes, fighting for their country. Many Americans died, fighting for the birth of a new country.

George Washington, the leader of the Continental Army, saw the idea of independence supported by both men and women. He saw people from other countries come to help make this Revolution work. He felt the spirit of the colonists trying to create a type of country that the world had never before seen.



Oh, America was not perfect. It's changed, but it's still not perfect today. It's even hard to answer the question "Were the 'patriots' right when they convinced the colonists to fight to take the American colonies away from England?"

But the fact that America HAS changed, the idea that *citizens can change their country,* was a revolutionary one in 1776. The fact that America, as a country, is still here (and has grown a bit in the last 200 years) proves that this was an idea worth trying!

COLONIAL AMERICA

So, now you've learned about how our country came to be. You've learned how thirteen small, individual colonies became a new, united country. We've seen how brave people were willing to risk everything to defend an idea; to give birth to a new nation.

And the *"Colonial Period"* in America ended, on the birthday of the United States as a country. We can tell exactly when Colonial America ends and the United States is born...on July 4, 1776, when Thomas Jefferson's Declaration of Independence declares that we are a "free and independent nation."

...Small point of disagreement! The Declaration only declared that we were independent. We had to <u>win the Revolutionary War in order to win our independence.</u> So, the **U.S.A. really began** when we defeated the English. The Treaty of Paris oficially ended the Revolution on September 3, 1783. So that is the birthday of the U.S. Isn't it? O.K. now.....

But once we beat the English, the Declaration of Independence (that had been written and signed during the War) took effect.

Our country <u>was</u> born when the Declaration was signed: July 4, 1776!

But if the colonies had lost the War, the Declaration would have been torn up by the English, and would have meant nothing.

So when it was written, <u>the Declaration did not start a new country.</u> We had to win the War to do that! Our country wasn't born until 1783!

So, when did Colonial America end, and the United States begin? _____

At any rate, Colonial America ended at a beginning...the beginning of a new country, the U.S.A.

Just as it is not easy to know exactly when the U.S.A. was born (maybe it was born in the minds of a few patriots years before the War even started...), it was not easy to know which decisions were right ones after we won the Revolution.

For example, you are Sam Adams, or Thomas Jefferson, or Abagail Adams, one of the patriots who helped win the War. The year is 1783, and the Treaty of Paris has just been signed. You've won the War!

What do you do now? What plans have you for the new country? How should we grow? What should we do first?

Your Plans For The New Country:

ROLL CALL OF ...

"THE PATRIOTS"

The following is a "SCRAMBLE-MATCH" of some of the important patriots (people who fought for the independence of the 13 colonies).

See how many names you can unscramble, then match the person with his/her description by placing the person's number in the blank before the description.

name	unscrambled	
1. Shotam Onrsfjefe	_____	_____
2. Reogeg Nothgniswa	_____	_____
3. Ytsbe Osrs	_____	_____
4. Baailga Madsa	_____	_____
5. Qramisu ed Yafaiette	_____	_____
6. Norab Nov Nebtues	_____	_____
7. Liisphi Leytheaw	_____	_____
8. Thamra Nothgniswa	_____	_____
9. Krictap Yenrh	_____	_____
10. Muleas Smada	_____	_____
11. Hojn Smada	_____	_____
12. Jaminneb Kiinranf	_____	_____
13. Laup Veeerr	_____	_____

____ This genleman farmer from Virginia, although young, was a delegate to the Second Continental Congress, and actually ended up writing The Declaration of Independence. He loved to play the violin.

____ He led the Continental Army. He was offered the title of "King," but became our country's first President.

____ A seamstress, this woman lived at 200 Arch Street in Philadelphia. The story goes that George Washington asked her to make a flag to represent the new country.

____ An early believer in rights for women, this New England woman encouraged, supported, and helped her husband. Their marriage was one of "mind and heart." Her letters to her husband detailed her life in the times of the Revolution.

____ This young French aristocrat heard of the colonists' struggle and came to offer Washington his help. He was appointed General in the Continental Army, and helped bring France into the War against England.

____ This German General was an expert in military strategy. During the "Valley Forge" winter of 1777-1778 he taught the Continental soldiers the necessary skills to become an effective fighting army.

____ This brilliant African girl was often called the "First Black Poet In America." She was honored by General Washington, and later recognized worldwide.

____ Her actual name was Mary Ludwig, but she got her nickname because she walked over 100 miles to Valley Forge, then helped the soldiers there by tending the sick and wounded. She carried pitchers of water to thirsty soldiers and, otherwise, helped the Colonial Army to fight the British.

____ This widow had two young children when she married an important Virginian farmer. She became the first "First Lady" of the United States. In 1797 she returned to her beloved Mount Vernon.

____ This famous orator and patriot spoke for independence in the Virginia Assembly in 1774. His words "... I know not what course others may take, but as for me, give me liberty or give me death!" inspired his countrymen to action.

____ The fiery leader of the radical group "The Sons of Liberty" in Boston, this man organized the Boston Tea Party in 1773.

____ He was a lawyer from Massachusetts and a believer in justice. He was a fine husband and father and very well respected by the citizens of Boston. He was an outspoken member of the Continental Congress.

____ The most famous silversmith in Boston, he was also a farmer and patriot. We talk about his famous ride to warn the colonists that the British were coming to get arms that were stored in Lexington, Massachusetts in 1775.

____ Maybe the most famous early American colonist, he was a printer, inventor, and scientist. He represented the colonies in England. This patriot worked very hard to promote the ideas of peace, but when that failed, he told the Second Continental Congress, "We must all hang together, or most assuredly, we will all hang separately."

It is easy to think that these were the only really important patriots. This is not so. There were many other patriots whose names you might recognize, for example,

Lydia Darrah, James Forten, Crispus Attucks, Thomas Paine, Nathan Hale, Benedict Arnold (?), Richard Henry Lee...

HEAR YE! HEAR YE! WHAT OTHER NAMES CAN YOU, YOUR FRIENDS, AND YOUR TEACHERS ADD TO THIS LIST? ASK YOUR PARENTS TOO!

_____ _____

_____ _____

But, even with all these people working as hard as they did, nothing could have been accomplished without the help of men and women of all different races, religions, and backgrounds. ***The American Revolution was not the work of a few, but was the spirit of many.***

Activities

1. Pick a colony. Design a travel brochure to attract visitors to your colony in the year 1750.

2. Do some research about schools in the colony of Massachusetts in the year 1769.

3. You are the British soldier who has been put on trial for the Boston Massacre. Write a statement in your defense.

4. Write a journal entry from the point of view of a Redcoat marching to Lexington.

5. Write a journal entry from the point of view of a Minuteman guarding the road to Concord.

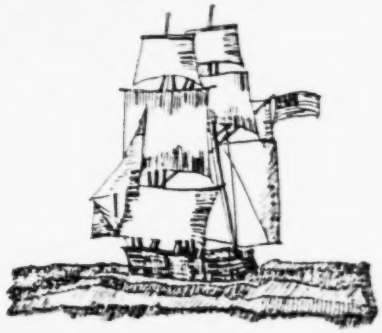
6. If the colonies had decided to become thirteen countries rather than one, what difficulties might they have faced?

7. Caesar Rodney had to ride by horseback from Delaware to Philadelphia to cast his vote for Independence. How many miles did he have to travel? How long do you estimate the trip took in 1776?

8. Looking at the scale on a United States map, about how many miles was it from the northern most colony to the southern most colony?

9. George Washington and his troops camped in Valley Forge during the winter of 1777-78. Draw up a list of supplies for the approximately 10,000 men. Include only those things that were of vital improtance such as food, clothing, and medical supplies.

10.You are the captain of the ship, Morning Star, which is to sail from New York to London in the year 1750. Your cargo is three thousand pounds of wheat and one thousand pounds of rice. In London, you will be paid 2 shillings per pound of wheat, and 3 shillings per pound of rice. How many shillings will you receive? If there are twelve shillings in a pound, how many pounds will you earn?



11. George Washington sends you a note, stating that he is displeased with the American Flag. Draw your design of a new American Flag for General Washington.

12. Select one colonial leader. Write a journal entry, describing what his/her day might be like.

13. Remember the different climates throughout the colonies. With that in mind, draw a picture of a house that could be used in ALL of the colonies. (You may have to do some research here.)

14. Draw a map of the thirteen original colonies. Label each colony, and the cities of: Philadelphia, Boston, Charleston, and New York.

15. A class or group project: Draw and illustrate a colonial timeline, beginning with the founding of Jamestown, Virginia, and ending with the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

16. Construct a diorama, showing a street scene in Colonial Philadelphia.

17. Imagine that you are a boy/girl, living in the colony of Pennsylvania in 1776. How would you feel, what would you wear, what would your school be like? Write a letter to a friend in the colony of Massachusetts about your life in the colony of Pennsylvania.

18. This one "sounds" good...Make a list of the sounds that you, a young farm boy/girl, would hear if you lived in the colony of South Carolina. Now make another list that you, a young boy/girl would hear if you lived in the colonial city of Philadelphia. The year (in both cases) is 1777.

19. LET'S CHANGE HISTORY...What would life in America be like today if the British had won the Revolutionary War?

20. What were schools like in colonial times? Compare a colonial schoolroom with your school today. Be creative. Use your artistic ability to help show the differences you describe.

...For Discussion

1. Many colonists disliked paying English taxes, but nowhere was this feeling more evident than in the city of Boston. When a crowd of Radicals taunted a British soldier, and advanced on him with sticks and rocks, other British soldiers fired into the "unarmed" crowd. This "Boston Massacre" resulted in a trial for the Redcoats. John Adams, a leading Radical lawyer, defended the Redcoats.

If you had been a citizen of Boston at the time, how would you have felt about John Adams, Attorey for the Defense.

2. As late as 1775, after Lexington & Concord, most Americans did not favor independence. They only wanted to be treated fairly. A writer named Thomas Paine told the colonists, though, that it was just "common sense" to be free of British rule. He once said that "...A continent should not be governed by an island."

What do you suppose Paine meant by his statement?

3. A young patriot, Nathan Hale, volunteered to spy on the British. He was discovered, and sentenced to be hanged. His words, just before the British splaced the rope around his neck, were: "I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country."

What do you suppose Nathan Hale meant?

4. Do you know what the word "traitor" means? At least one-third of the colonists refused to fight against King George and Great Britain, the "*mother country.*" These Americans were known as Loyalists or Tories. Americans, favoring Independence, were known as Patriots or Radicals. Each group called the other group Traitors.

Would you have chosen to be a Patriot or a Loyalist? Why?

5. As you know, Thomas Jefferson wrote the Declaration of Independence. Jefferson was a very serious, intelligent young man. Benjamin Franklin, a much-respected elder statesman, was known for his sense of humor, as well as for his intelligence.

How do you think the Declaration of Independence would have been different, had Franklin been its author?

6. During the winter of 1777-1778, the Colonial cause looked grim. The Continental Army had been defeated at Philadelphia and at Germantown. Many soldiers, tired, hungry, sick, returned home.

In your opinion, should these "deserters" have been punished?

7. Although Thomas Jefferson was a slave owner, he desired to make slavery illegal in the new country. Other patriots such as Edward Rutledge, of South Carolina, opposed this position, and would not sign the Declaration of Independence if it abolished slavery. Remember, the vote for Independence had to be unanimous.

Do you think Jefferson was correct in removing the clause about slavery from the Declaration of Independence so that Independence could be achieved?

8. Abagail Adams constantly reminded her husband, John, to "remember the ladies."

In what ways, if at all, were the important contributions of colonial women recognized?

9. During the years before the Revolutionary War, the colonists tried many ways to peacefully settle their differences with England. When they felt all peaceful methods had failed, some of them turned to violence.

Do you think violent methods should be used when peaceful methods fail? Where do you "draw the line?"

10. Did you know that Benedict Arnold, famous Colonial General, and Commander of the Fort at West Point, lived out his life in England. The English called him the "American traitor." He felt he was justified in betraying his country. In one incident, he helped the British by making it easier for them to capture West Point.

Is one ever justified in betraying his/her country? Didn't George Washington, Abagail Adams, etc. do just that?